Growth of Mills in the State.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 6, Mr. C. J. Mathew.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I don't move the resolution.

Hence the following resolution was consiaered withdrawn:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the rapid and injudicious growth of mills in the State especially rice-mills in the Trichur Taluk without consideration of scope or capital invested and to suggest ways and means to put a check to such growth so that unhealthy rivalry and competition among the mill-owners may be stopped."

7. License for temporary liquor shops.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 7, Mr. K. T. Mathew.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I beg to move *"This Council recommends that no license for opening temporary liquor shops be issued hereafter."*

After notice of this resolution has been given, I received a copy of the Council Proceedings of the last Budget Session in which I find that the Excise Commissioner promised that no more licenses for opening temporary shops will be issued.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There was no such promise.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Please vide Legislative Council Reports, Second Series, Vol. I, Part 8, Page 506. He says 'there will be no more such shops.'

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—But the context will show that there will be no more shops that year.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—So the Member admits that it is there.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No, you said it was there.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What I read is there.

Deputy President.—The Superintendent says, anyhow, it is only intended for that year.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—So what is printed in this Report is not correct. Is it so?

Deputy President.—May or may not be.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then what is the use of the Council Report, and why should we waste money for this? This is a matter which has been brought to the attention of the Council ever so many times, and each time the Government have been evading answering the question.

Let us now consider the number of shops which the Government have been granting from year to year. In 1096 there were 41 temporary shops and the number increased in 1100 to

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69 and we were following a policy of prohibition! (*Hear, hear.*) In 1102, the number came to 66, and yet we were then following a policy of prohibition! In 1103, it stood at 47. I understand that the Travancore Excise Committee made a recommendation for the abolition of such temporary shops. May I know whether the Hon'ble Member denies or contradicts the statements?

Deputy President.—You go on. He will reply when his turn comes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—We have taken up a position that we are working towards prohibition and it is our duty to remove temptation from the people. With these words, I commend this resolution to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to second the resolution. I may say at the very outset that the Hon'ble Member for Excise did make a statement that he would not grant temporary licenses hereafter. It was in the course of my budget speech that a discussion on this matter took place and I might read two or three passages from the printed Report to show that the Hon'ble Excise Member did assure the House then that he would entirely stop the granting of occasional licenses.

Deputy President.—Whatever that be, he is not prepared to accept that now. You can say what you have to say on the resolution.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—It was in the face of such a strong assurance that we left the House after the Budget Session. So, before I proceed further I should like to know whether any such temporary licenses have been granted this year.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I do not remember. There was no occasion for issuing temporary licenses.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Even during the *kole* cultivation and harvest seasons, not to say of other unimportant occasions, these licenses are granted. What I mean is, even where there is no necessity licenses are granted every time for the mere asking. Is this then the way of reaching the ultimate goal of absolute prohibition? Time after time it has been brought to the notice of this House that during the Bharani festival, the Trichur Pooram festival and other occasions of festivities these special licenses ought not to be granted for many reasons.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No temporary licenses are granted during the Pooram now.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—There was a time when that was being done. Any way it is certainly a most detrimental thing for any Government to invite the drunkards to come and drink at the very place where these festivals are going on. I do not think much speaking is necessary to convince the House of its evil effects on the public.

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I shall first explain the so-called promise attributed to me. It is well known to this House that though this question had begun to be mooted since the inauguration of the First Legislative Council, the same answer was continued to be given by me, namely, that we cannot abolish the system of issuing temporary licenses. Then as regards this Report, I was asked, I remember, how many temporary licenses were granted in 1102 and I said it was 66. Then I was asked how many were given in 1103 and I said, 47. And then it was I said that no more temporary licenses would be issued. I meant only in that year. If that speech had been sent to me for correction, I would have certainly corrected it. But it was not sent to me for correction, and the first time I saw my speech so reported was when this Report was placed into my hands. Therefore, I can only say that no such promise was made by me in this House.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Member requested the Government to make the necessary alterations after seeing the Report?

Deputy President.—Let him finish it.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Then with regard to the resolution. I have stated many a time in this House that the Government Excise policy is modelled mainly on that followed by the Government of India and the Madras Presidency and I have also stated how in the acceptance and the practicable working of that policy almost all the measures adopted in the Madras Presidency to wean persons from drink have been adopted in our State also. The rule regarding the grant of occasional licenses here is practically based upon that prevailing in the Madras Presidency. In both the places occasional licenses for short periods not exceeding 10 days for the sale of liquor may be granted on the occurrence of fairs, festivals, etc. (*Cries of shame, shame.*) In the Madras Presidency they can be granted only in places in the vicinity of which there are no regularly licensed shops. Here they may be given not only in such places but also in places where the existing number of licensed shops is insufficient. In no other place can such licenses be granted here. (*Cries of shame.*) This latter provision was inserted in our rule mainly in connection with the Bharani festival in Cranganur, and I may say that, only there and only on that occasion, occasional licenses are given where there are licensed shops. (*Cries of shame.*)

Deputy President.—Order please.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The principle upon which occasional licenses are given is that where large crowds

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of people, most of whom are addicted to drink in some form or other, assemble, there would be enormous demand for drink, which, if not supplied by licit liquor, will be certainly met by illicit liquor and it will be very difficult to detect such malpractices. In most cases there will be no licensed shops near such places of fairs, festivals, etc., which can alone supply licit liquor, or as in the case of Cranganur, the existing number of licensed shops, namely, 3 toddy and 2 arrack shops, will not be able to supply the demand for licit liquor at the time of the Cranganur Bharani when more than 50 thousand people assemble there. Further on account of the rush for liquor by the crowds, who will not be very discriminating in their demand, there is a sure likelihood of disturbance or riot if the number of shops is not sufficient. (*Cries of shame, shame.*) Further surrounded as our State is both by British and Tranvancore territories and seeing that fairs and festivals occur in our frontiers also, if we do not give occasional licenses, people will go to the foreign territories and get their liquor from there. In other words, the effect of the abolition of the system of issuing occasional licenses will be not to make the people dry but loss of revenue, which, instead of coming to our Government will be transferred to other Governments. Lastly, I would state that I have been very careful in the matter of granting occasional licenses. In 1102 the number granted was 66 and last year it was reduced to 47. That is all I have to say.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The explanation that has been given by the Hon'ble Member for Excise regarding the promise that was held out during the Budget Session and that is printed in the Report is one which, I believe, will not commend itself either to one section or the other of this House. I do not take the liberty to reply him which I leave to the Honourable mover of the resolution but in supporting the resolution I submit that the existence of ordinary liquor shops in themselves being a nuisance the grant of temporary licenses for shops on the occasion of festivals and fairs is certainly a greater nuisance which cannot be justified as the Hon'ble Member for Excise is doing on the ground that the Government is taking parental care to meet the needs of the people. We will be only very glad if this parental care is extended to other greater, and more important needs of the people than to this bad habit of drinking. The existence of shops themselves and, therefore, of the temporary shops is sought to be justified only on the sole ground that it brings a revenue to the State. Certainly it is an item of revenue tainted in itself. Every Government which claims to be a progressive Government, and I believe Cochin lays claim to be one such,—

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Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Cochin is.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Every Government of that sort should certainly make it a point to manage without this tainted income. That should be the ultimate aim and it is with that end in view that it has been stated in this House during the Budget Session that at least gradual prohibition must be attempted as a first step. That is the policy to be adopted by any progressive Government, and I fail to see why the Government is reluctant to stop this practice of giving temporary licenses to shops on such occasions. I request the House to accept this proposition. I believe it will commend itself to the other section of the House also, and I hope that this will be accepted unanimously by both the sections.

Deputy President.—You want to say anything in reply?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No.

(*The resolution was put and agreed to.*)

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—A poll, Sir.

The House divided:—*Ayes 20, Noes 15, Neutral 1.*

Ayes.	Noes.
1 Messrs. K. J. Antony	1 Messrs. V.K.Aravindaksha Menon
2 ,, K. Ayyappan	2 ,, P. C. Chanchan
3 ,, M. A. Chakko	3 ,, K. Govinda Menon
4 ,, A. Eachara Menon	4 ,, A. S. Harihara Ayyar
5 Dr. A. G. Menon	5 ,, Rao Sahib T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar
6 Messrs. K. P. Kannan Nayar	6 ,, S. S. Koder
7 ,, P. Krishna Menon	7 ,, T. K. Krishna Menon
8 ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan	8 ,, K. Krishna Pisharodi
9 ,, A. K. Kunhu Moideen	9 ,, Rao Sahib C. Matthai
10 ,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja	10 ,, P. Nilakanta Menon
11 ,, C. V. Kuriyan	11 ,, I. Raman Menon
12 ,, C. J. Mathew	12 ,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
13 ,, K. T. Mathew	13 Dr. E. A. Veigas
14 ,, V. D. Ouseph	14 Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar
15 Mrs. G. Pavitran	15 Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Varghese
16 Messrs. T. A. Ramachandara Ayyar	
17 ,, M. K. Raman	**Neutral.**
18 Dr. A. R. Menon	Mr. C. Barton Wright
19 Messrs. A. B. Salem	
20 ,, Thomas Manjuran	

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—I want to say one word by way of explanation regarding the Report. So far as the Council Proceedings are concerned, they are quite correct. The reporters cannot take down what he meant but only what he said.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They are mental reservations.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—But in this particular case it was not sent to me for correction.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—One line speeches are not sent to any Member, whether official or non-official, (*hear,hear*) for correction.

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Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—We must have some confidence in the reporting section also.

8. Nomination of members of village Panchayats.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I move that "*this Council requests the Government to abolish immediately the rules restricting the selection of members for nomination to the Village Panchayats.*" In speaking on this resolution also I have to bring to the attention of this Council a promise made by the Government but not yet fulfilled. It has become the practice of our Government in order to get allotments passed by this House to make promises and not to carry them out.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—So sweeping!

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Council Report, Volume 2 Part 20, Page 1693.

"President.—*So we are to change our view to satisfy the desire of the people. We have to modify these rules.*"

Sir, I understand that there are certain rules restricting nomination of members to Village Panchayats. This matter I brought to the attention of the Government several times, not once or twice. The Government used to promise we will consider we will consider and at last I succeeded to get an assurance from the Government that the rules will be modified and that was in 1101. Two years have passed, and I understand that nothing has been done in this matter. Because of the existence of this rule the depressed and the backward classes are almost entirely shut out of the Village Panchayats. It is a fact which we have to know that nowhere in India, neither in British Indian nor Indian States there exists any such restrictive rule for nomination. To fix a high property qualification for nominating members to Village Panchayat or Legislative Council is a thing quite unknown. We have here a more important Council than the Village Panchayat. There is no property qualification for nominating Members to this Council. The present restrictive rule is merely useful to exclude the depressed classes and the backward communities from the Village Panchayats.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No, no.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then what is its usefulness and purpose?

This matter should have been brought to the notice of the Government by the Protector of the Depressed Classes. I am sorry this matter did not receive his attention so far.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Can the Hon'ble Member give two or three instances where a member of the depressed classes was qualified and was not nominated where the man was competent?

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